

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of the claims replaces all previous listings and versions of the claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-14: (Cancelled)

15. (New) A method of selecting for delivery a profiled, composite pulltruded element for a load-bearing structure, the method comprising:

- i) providing load requirements and dimensions of the load-bearing structure;
- ii) providing a computer having an internet connection, an input means and an output means, and a server providing a homepage and having an internet connection, the server further including a database including a list of profiled, composite pulltruded elements and a calculation program for calculating the load capability of any of the profiled, composite pulltruded elements in the list and having specific dimensions, the homepage having links to the database and to the calculation program;
- iii) addressing the homepage and selecting from the list of profiled, composite pulltruded elements included in the database a specific profiled, composite pulltruded element and defining specific dimensions thereof corresponding to the dimensions of the load-bearing structure;
- iv) addressing the calculation program from the homepage for calculating a specific load capability of the specific profiled, composite pulltruded element of the specific dimensions and performing a comparison of the specific load capability with the load requirements of the structure for determining whether or not the load requirements are fulfilled;
- v) if the comparison performed in step iv) establishes a fulfilment of the load requirements, forwarding a positive validation response from the calculation program via the homepage and outputting the positive validation response from the computer; and
- vi) if the comparison performed in step iv) establishes a non-fulfilment of the load requirements, forwarding, via the homepage, and outputting from the computer a negative validation response and data identifying an alternative profiled, composite pulltruded element selected by the calculation program from the list, wherein the calculation program calculates the load capability of the alternate profiled, composite pulltruded element for comparison

with the load requirements, thereby selecting an alternative profiled, composite pulltruded element from the list that fulfills the load requirements and that has the specific dimensions.

16. (New) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

vii) returning an order to the homepage for delivery of the specific profiled, composite pulltruded element if the validation response is positive, and for delivery of the alternative profiled, composite pulltruded element if the validation response is negative.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16, further comprising:

viii) delivering the specific profiled, composite pulltruded element if the validation response is positive, and the alternative profiled, composite pulltruded element if the validation response is negative.

18. (New) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

if the comparison performed in step iv) establishes the non-fulfillment of the load requirements, selecting, by means of the calculation program, an alternative dimension of the specific profiled, composite pulltruded element and calculating the load capability thereof for comparison with the load requirements for selecting an alternative dimension of the profiled, composite pulltruded element that fulfills the load requirements, and forwarding data identifying the alternative dimension of the profiled, composite pulltruded element along with the negative validation response to the computer for output of the validation response from the computer.

19. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein step i) comprises:

defining a static system;  
defining a combination of loads on the load-bearing structure; and  
providing a definition of support of the load-bearing structure including a definition selected from the group consisting of one or more of simple support, elastic support, fixation, set-up, Charnier suspension, and hinged suspension.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the database further includes an additional list of fittings to be used in combination with the profiled, composite pulltruded elements, and wherein the calculation program calculates the load capability of any of the fit-

tings in the additional list in combination with the specific profiled, composite pulltruded element.

21. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the database further includes a supplementary list of connections, and wherein the calculation program calculates the load capability of any of the profiled composite pulltruded elements in combination with such connection.

22. (New) The method according to any of claims 15-19, wherein the list of profiled, composite pulltruded elements is organized in a plurality of clusters of profiled, composite pulltruded elements having the same overall geometrical configuration, the clusters being ordered in increasing or decreasing load capabilities of the profiled, composite pulltruded elements.

23. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein the calculation program selects, if the comparison in step iv) establishes the non-fulfilment of the load requirements, an alternative specific profiled, composite pulltruded element from one of the plurality of clusters that includes the specific profiled, composite pulltruded element having a higher load capability.

24. (New) The method according to claim 22, further comprising:

if the comparison performed in step iv) establishes the fulfilment of the load requirements, selecting, by means of the calculation program, an alternative specific profiled, composite pulltruded element from one of the plurality of clusters including the specific profiled, composite pulltruded element having a lower load capability, the calculation program performing a calculation of an alternative specific load capability of the load-bearing structure comprising the alternative profiled, composite pulltruded element and performing a comparison for comparing the specific alternative load capability with the load requirements of the structure for determining whether or not the load requirements are fulfilled, wherein step v) includes forwarding the positive validation response regarding the alternative profiled, composite pulltruded element from the calculation program via the homepage if the comparison in step iv) establishes the fulfilment of the load requirements by the alternative profiled, composite pulltruded element, and, if the comparison performed in step iv) establishes the non-fulfilment of the load requirements by the alternative profiled, composite pulltruded ele-

ment, forwarding no validation response from the calculation program via the homepage regarding the alternative profiled, composite pulltruded element.

25. (New) The method according to any of claims 15-19, wherein the forwarding and outputting performed in steps v) and vi) further includes forwarding and outputting information regarding the specific load capability determined in step iv).

26. (New) The method according to any of claims 15-19, wherein the outputting performed in step v) further includes outputting drawings of the load-bearing structure composed of the specific profiled, composite pulltruded element, and wherein the outputting performed in step vi) includes outputting drawings of the load-bearing structure composed of the alternative profiled, composite pulltruded element.

27. (New) The method according to any of claims 15-19, wherein the server includes an inventory program; wherein step v) further includes communicating the specific profiled, composite pulltruded element from the homepage to the inventory program for checking delivery times and stock of the specific profiled, composite pulltruded element and returning information regarding delivery times and stock of the specific profiled, composite pulltruded element to the homepage; and wherein step vi) further includes communicating the alternative profiled, composite pulltruded element from the homepage to the inventory program for checking delivery times and stock of the alternative profiled, composite pulltruded element and returning information regarding delivery times and stock of the alternative profiled, composite pulltruded element to homepage.

28. (New) The method according to any of claims 15-19, wherein the server includes a bookkeeping program; wherein step v) further includes communicating the specific profiled, composite pulltruded element from the homepage to the bookkeeping program for checking price information for the specific profiled, composite pulltruded element and returning the price information to the homepage; and wherein step vi) further includes communication the alternative profiled, composite pulltruded element from the homepage to the bookkeeping program for checking price information for the alternative profiled, composite pulltruded element and returning the price information for the alternative profiled, composite pulltruded element to the homepage.

29. (New) The method according to any of claims 15-19, further comprising, prior to step i), the steps of determining the dimensions and load requirements of the load-bearing structure.

30. (New) A load-bearing structure built with at least one profiled, composite pulltruded element selected in accordance with the method recited in any of claims 15-19.